

REMARKS

At the outset, applicant thanks the Examiner and Examiner's Supervisor for contacting the undersigned on January 7, 2007 to discuss the above-identified application.

Claims 13-27 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment overcomes this rejection.

Claims 13-27 have been canceled. New claims 28-61 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found generally throughout the specification and in the original claims. Indeed, it is believed that the new claims largely reflect the subject matter recited within claim 13-27 but have only been revised to reflect preferred United States patent practice. Nevertheless, applicant notes that further support for the claims may be found in the specification at page 26, lines 19-27. The Examiner's attention is also respectfully directed to Examples 10-12 in the present specification for explicit support of claims 54-58.

The new claims are directed to methods for testing and selecting agents to determine whether the agents inhibit or stimulate clonal cell growth and methods of inhibiting or stimulating clonal cell growth. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims have been drafted in a manner that addresses the issues of indefiniteness raised in the outstanding Official

Action. Indeed, the claims have been drafted so a number of the phrases cited in the Official Action are no longer recited.

However, applicant does note that the terms relating to the "collocation" of cells is discussed in the present specification at page 4, lines 13-18; page 5, lines 24-28; and page 26, lines 1-5. Moreover, applicant notes that the phrase "components from physiological or pathological processes" is exemplified in the specification and original claims. In this regard, applicant believes that while the phrase may be broad, the phrase is definite to one skilled in the art.

Thus, in view of the above, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

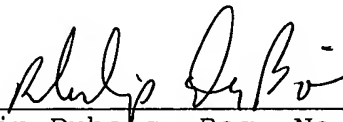
A favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$350 for 14 extra dependent claims added to our credit card set forth in the attached Credit Card Payment Form.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Philip Dubois, Reg. No. 50,696
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

PD/lrs